

Let's Worship God

22nd-27th July 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

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Monday - Isaiah 40:18-20 - Idols Are Pathetic!

We have this pathetic, or really, in a way, laughable picture, in these three verses, of idols. These idols cannot do what God does. They don't have control of the oceans and the storms. They have no command over the nations. As a matter of fact, not only can they not control these things, they did not make these things. In fact, these gods must be made. They are cast out of metal, covered in gold to look fancy, and held up by chains. People worshipped these things as if they were God. What folly!

Long ago, at the creation of the world, God made man in His own image. But man, since the Fall, is constantly seeking to remake God in His own image, so He can avoid the God who owns him and to whom he owes love. So an idol doesn't have to be a statue or a picture. Ultimately all idolatries make an idol of one's own self. I am God. I decide what is right and wrong, true and false, good and evil. If the Lord God is not your God, and if that is not where your life is centered, then you have an idol. Maybe you have a life dominating sin. Then you have an idol. It is what runs your life, not the living and true God. If having a spouse, or children, career, or money, or lots of leisure time and ease, for example, consume all your thoughts, then you've got an idol problem. If your happiness depends upon having these things and you are happy and content with them, at least for a time, and life is just trash without them, you've got an idol problem. In fact, if your happiness depends upon trust in anything else, or if you're in despair without it, you have an idol problem. None of these things can deliver you. None of these things can make you right before the living and true God. All these things have carried you away from Him.

Whom do you worship? To whom have you given your life? And upon what is your happiness in this life or in the life to come based? Where is your trust? How can you know the living and true God? He has graciously and kindly sent Himself into this world in the person of His Son, who has become man, who lived a perfect life in the place of imperfect sinners, who has died the death worthy of sin, though he committed none. In the place of those who have committed sin, He paid the price of God's justice entirely. He has said, come to me. Rely not on these other things.

Questions

1. What are idols?
2. What are some idols common today?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be trusting in Christ, not in idols.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

Praise: Psalm 104 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 40:21-26 - Listen and Look

Listen and look. That's what God tells us to do here. Pay attention to what you're hearing. Don't merely pay attention. Actually take action with what you've heard. And don't just look, but actually understand what you're looking at.

God directs His people to what they had heard. God's people would be tempted to distrust God's power and ability and willingness to save them when they would see the ungodly coming in like a flood. But they had been taught differently. They were responsible for what they had heard. They were responsible for what they had listened to in the temple and in their synagogues. We are responsible for what we hear when the Word of God is being read or preached. We must not only hear it with our ears, but heed it, believe it, and keep it in our hearts. And what particularly had they heard in the temple and in their synagogues? Well, He had told them of His mighty power over the nations. They heard that He not only created all that there is, but He continues actively to sustain all things. They had heard that not one great and mighty ruler would be able to go any farther than God allowed them to. All things are in God's hands.

God tells them to look. 'Look at who I am. Look at what I do. I am the God Who comes to save you. I am the God Who is incomparable.' The skies speak of the glory of God, daytime or nighttime. Go out and look! That's what God says. And you'll notice something if you look long enough. You'll see that everything goes on in an orderly way, because God works in an orderly way. All is in His control. Nothing is missing that should be there.

When you see the nations raging, when you see societies descending into folly, and when you see the winds and the waves towering about you, take heart, believer. Heed what you've heard. Pay attention to what you have seen. Your God in Jesus Christ might, for your good and His glory, lead you through some tough times. But every time, every single time, He will bring you through. Not one good thing that the Lord has promised shall fail. That is your promise in Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. What have we been told about God?
2. What can we see about God in the world around us?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that the heavens declare the glory of God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Praise: Psalm 105 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 40:27-31 - Wait Upon the Lord

The people are saying: 'things have gotten so bad that God doesn't pay any attention to me anymore.' God's people have always had this temptation to be impatient: 'Does God really care about me? If God really cared, wouldn't He do this?' How foolish we are.

To these words God replies in verses 28 and 29. God is great in power. God is great in wisdom, and He brings all things to pass in His good, wise, eternal, sovereign, and glorious plan. The people of God have seen and heard this. Jehovah is able and willing, as we see in verse 29, to give such power and ability to His people for them to accomplish what He calls them to do. He calls Himself, here in verse 28, the Lord Jehovah, the covenant name of God. They are His people and He is their God. He is the covenant God who has loved His people from eternity and shall love them forevermore, each and every one of them, and all of them together.

When God calls His people to go through difficulties, and they depend upon Him in Christ, trusting that He will work all things out powerfully, trusting that He will work out all things wisely, trusting in the one who has said, 'I am your God, you are my people' – He strengthens, renews, refreshes, and He gives the ability to do all that will be a blessing to them and a glory to Himself. So when you're in the middle of crushing debt, or heavy responsibility, or debilitating illness, or maddening betrayal, or deep loneliness, or black despair, when you are maybe at the point where death approaches, in Christ you will be strengthened to go through and beyond it. Wait then, as we are commanded here. Wait upon Jehovah, upon the Father who has loved you with an everlasting love, and who sacrificed His Son in order that you might be delivered to Him forever and ever. Wait upon the Son who has kindly come and yielded up His life, that you might live in heavenly places with Him. Wait upon the Spirit who indwells you, and is transforming you, and has already applied to you the benefits of Christ's mediatorial work. Wait upon this God. He knows what He's doing. He is able to do that which is good for you and glorious. Wait upon him. You shall not be disappointed. Rather, you shall see your strength renewed and you shall mount up on wings as the eagles.

Questions

1. What were the people saying about God?
2. What does God promise here?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would renew your strength to live for Him.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

Praise: Psalm 106 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 41:1-7 - The Challenge to the Nations

This chapter is speaking to the heathen nations round about -- the nations that think they are strong and mighty, the leaders of them that think that they are perhaps gods on earth. There are certain themes that we see over and over again: how it is God alone who brings things to pass; that the idols of the nation are nothing.

We have a calling to trial in verse 1. God commands the nations to be silent and come near. Despite the worst that unbelievers in their wicked societies can try to do, the cause of God and truth will be vindicated. The Messiah rules over all things. All must yield to Him or be broken by Him.

Verses 2-4 show that idols are worth nothing. Who brought the Persians from the east? Who made them more powerful than anyone else? Who brought it about that these other mighty lands just went over like dominoes? Did this god or that one? Well, here's the answer that we have in verse four. 'I, the Lord', that's who. By this series of questions, God shows himself to be the only God and Saviour.

We are constantly tempted by idols. What is it that dominates your thinking? What is it to which you have given your life and your money? What dominates your time? What is it you think you just could not live without? Is it the living and true God, or is it something else? There are many idols out there. What have the idols done back in Isaiah's day, and what have they done for you? What can they do now? What will they ever be able to do? These are good questions for you to ask.

In verses 5-7 the wicked do gather together, and they do in fear. But is it a godly fear? It's more like Adam and Eve after they had sinned with the forbidden fruit. It's more like Satan appearing before God in the book of Job. They are there because they must be there, but they are not there in love and in reverence, but in terror, in horror, and in hatred. They sought to strengthen one another against God. What fools. This is the challenge to the nations. Submit to Jesus Christ. This is the challenge to the individual as well. Submit to Him and find His love, forgiveness of sin, and life everlasting, or defy Him and be destroyed. Those are the only possibilities.

Questions

1. Who caused the Persians to conquer other nations?
2. What are idols worth?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would get rid of any idols in your life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

Praise: Psalm 107 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 41:8-9 - Comfort for God's People

In these verses God speaks to His own people. First, God names the people of God by their forefathers and starts out with him who was given a new name. He had been Jacob, but many years later, God gave him a new name, Israel – that is, the one who wrestles with God. He was no longer looking out for himself as number one, but was seeking to serve God. The true people of God were just like their forefather. They had striven, they'd fought against sin, and they were now God's servant.

They are named after Jacob the one whom God had chosen, and God is now speaking to the people He had chosen to Himself. God does not choose them because they are lovely, nor does He ever choose anyone because they are lovely, because left to ourselves, we are not. God chooses believers not because of what we are, but because of what He is. This should be a comfort to you. For God's love is not dependent upon who you are or upon what you do. It is dependent upon His unchanging plan, His eternal decree. It is based upon His unchanging grace.

We see that they are named after Abraham, the friend of God. The Lord Jesus said to his disciples, 'you are my friends.' We are his friends as well. And we share in the same promises given to Abraham.

Not only are they called, but they are consecrated, as we see in verse 9. God has taken them and made them special and set apart. God continues to do this with His people, even today, including you. We are set apart for Him, and for His pleasure, and for His glory (Ephesians 1:4-6, 11-12).

God has called you, believer; not you alone, but you as part of His people, you as part of the bride of Christ, although you particularly. And He has set His love upon you, a love that cannot, that will not ever fade or end, and that will bring about transformation in your life that will be making you more holy, that will be making you more Christ-like. God will never let you go because He loves you with a love that does not fail, that does not change. He will deliver us because we are called by Him and consecrated to His glory.

Questions

1. Why does God choose us to save?
2. What are we consecrated to do?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that you have been called by Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.
Isaiah 40:31

Praise: Psalm 108 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 41:10 - Protected

In the time of Isaiah, there were fears, trials, and troubles. It's the same today. All kinds of things may be troubling you, perhaps keeping you awake at night. God says to His people, 'Fear not.' Why? 'Because I am with you. I have been with you, and I have delivered you. I will be with you, and I shall deliver you in times to come. I am with you now. Do not be dismayed.' We can have these sudden horrible things happen to us, and it dismays us. But your Father in heaven says, 'I am with you'. There may even be spiritual fears. We may be thinking God cannot possibly love us anymore. How could God love us when we have fallen into this same stupid, foolish, wicked sin yet again? But in kindness and reassurance, Jehovah, as a kindly father, consoles and comforts, and He protects His people and each individual child of His, by grace.

God is the strong one as well. The emphasis here is to say, 'this is what I have done in the past, and I continue, because I am with you, and I am your God, and I change not. Shall I let anything ultimately cause you harm? I am your God. I have given my only begotten Son for you. I have yielded him up to my wrath and curse that you may have life and blessing. Shall I not with Him give you all good things? I have created all. I sustain all by the word of my power. I arrange all things in my eternal and wise plan for your good and for my glory. I delight to do you good, and I use that which is uncomfortable for a time to make you more like my Son. You knew yourself to be so weak. I made you strong. You felt yourself to be so helpless. I helped you.' Poor, frightened believer, your Father is here. He has not abandoned you. He is your God. He's already shown strength for you and delivered you from afflictions that perhaps you don't even know of. What He has done He will yet do in all your difficulties, in all your afflictions, and in all your struggles in the world, He will hold you, and keep you, and bless you.

Questions

1. What promises do we have in this verse?
2. How can we encourage ourselves to not be afraid?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

Praise: Psalm 109 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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